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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

ANNUAL REPORT



for

THE YEAR 1942

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1942.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report will again be very short and will only deal with any changes which have occurred during the year under review.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These have not greatly changed- more evacuees have returned home and it is estimated that about 70 remain and this number has been absorbed into the Borough without any undue strain on housing or educational resources.

There has naturally been no unemployment problem-

Recreational facilities have been increased by the utilization of the Ambulance Hall for dances and Social gatherings, for which it has proved very suitable.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.	721.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942).	1,178.
Rateable Value.	£17,867.
Sum produced by a penny rate.	£69-17-6.

Vital Statistics.

Population (estimated).	3,690.
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	M.	F.	Total.	
<u>Live Births.</u>	20.	30.	50.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population 14.0
Legitimate.				
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	2.	
<u>Still Births.</u>	2.	2.	4.	Rate per 1,000 births- 71.4
<u>Deaths.</u>	24.	23.	47.	Death-rate 12.7 per 1,000

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. nil.
2. Other Causes. nil.

Legitimate. . . 1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :- Illegitimate. . . 0.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	19.2
Deaths, from Cancer (all ages).	7.
Measles (all ages).	0.
Whooping Cough (all ages).	0.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	0.

These statistics are quite satisfactory and show a distinct improvement all round over those of the previous year, though in dealing with such relatively small numbers it is not possible to attach much importance to percentages. There is, however, genuine ground for satisfaction that in this fourth year of war the health of the community, judged from these vital statistics, appears to be improving and this despite the fact that the presumably fittest section of the community is away in the Services.

Special cause for satisfaction is the absence of any puerperal death and an infant mortality rate of only 19.2 compared with 49 for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blaney., M.P., B.Ch. D.P.H. (Part time and also District M.O under Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. J.H.Harris A.R. .I (Half time) who also holds a Certificate for Food Inspection.

There have been no alterations of importance in the health services.

The minor ailment clinic has continued to serve a very useful purpose, especially in regard to inspecting and treating verminous children. There are still cases of Scabies and Impetigo occurring, and where difficulties have arisen in treating such cases at home they have been sent by arrangement to the special clinic at Truro.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

Water. Supplies have continued satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Analyses, which I do not propose to include in this report have been invariably satisfactory, and no case of water-borne infection or illness has come to my notice.

Drainage and Sewage. No new work has been done under this head.

Closet Accomodation. I occasionally get complaints from one household, where two houses share the same closet. There is room for stricter supervision here and the eventual achievement of the ideal of "one house, one closet".

Rivers and Streams. Nil to report.

Public Cleansing. Nil to report.

Shops and Offices, Camping Sites, Smoke Abatement, Swimming Baths, and Pools.

Nil to report.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. Two Council houses had to be treated by the local Authority- the same methods being employed as I have described in previous reports.

HOUSING.

Naturally no new houses have been built though a certain amount of work has been done in reconditioning old ones and houses that have been damaged by enemy action.

The Authority has however been taking serious thought for the future and plans are already in being for a large re-housing scheme as soon as opportunity offers.

I should like here to draw attention to the insanitary state of some of the bombed houses, where the walls have been left standing. These are unfortunately used by certain people as public conveniences. I doubt whether anything will deter this type of person from this disgusting practise except removal of the opportunity to indulge it- namely complete demolition of these partially demolished properties.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and a number of samples taken for analysis. These have ranged from good to bad. The standard of "milking hygiene" has improved, but is still far from what it should be, and it is not very encouraging to the conscientious producer when his "good" milk is pooled at the factory and mixed with unsatisfactory milk from the careless producer. Whatever the merits of pasteurization- and they undoubtedly are many- they cannot nearly compensate for the evils of unhygienic methods of production.

However this whole subject is being considered by the Government and it is probable that in the near future the supervision of Milk Supplies may be taken out of the hands of the Local Authorities- I, for one, shall not go into mourning on that account.

Meat and other Foods.

Shops, stalls and vehicles are regularly inspected.

Minor faults have been discovered and corrected. No cases calling for legal proceedings have arisen.

There are no Slaughter-houses in the Borough and the Distribution Centre has now been removed out of the district.

Schools. Nil to report.

Rats.

Infested areas are treated about 3 times a year. Large numbers have been destroyed especially at the refuse Dump.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Measles	4.
Whooping-cough	21.
Pneumonia	1.
Puerperal pyrexia	1.

It will be seen that, apart from a continuation of the Whooping-cough epidemic from the previous year we were almost exempt from notifiable diseases- All these cases and the 4 Measles cases were all nursed at home and we had not to call on the County Isolation Hospital for any cases- There were no deaths from Whooping-cough or Measles.

Of non-notifiable diseases, there was an epidemic of catarrhal jaundice and of gastro-enteritis of a non-specific nature; the pathology of both these outbreaks was obscure.

In the early spring there was a mild Influenza epidemic, but it was not very wide-spread.

Immunization against Diphtheria has gone ahead satisfactorily- practically every child of school-age has been protected and the numbers of those under five still unprotected is rapidly diminishing. I would like here to record once again my thanks to my colleague, Dr. Herwald, for his help and co-operation in this work.

Isolation Hospital Accomodation.

This is now entirely provided by the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

Fortunately we had not to make use of its facilities during 1942.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were no new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year- an event that I cannot recall as ever happening before.

Deaths from Tuberculosis numbered five- 4 males aged respectively 77, 61, 32, and 30 and one female aged 54.

All these cases were pulmonary.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLANEY.

August 1943.

